

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) An in vitro assay method to determine the ability of a substance to inhibit the association of UL8 and POL wherein "UL8" is defined as UL8 of HSV-1 or the homologues thereof in other herpesviruses and "POL" is defined as POL of HSV-1 or the homologues thereof in other herpesviruses, said method assay comprising:
- i) providing a first viral component consisting of UL8;
 - ii) providing a second viral component consisting of POL;
 - iii) exposing said first viral component to said substance followed by addition of the second viral component, or exposing said second viral component to said substance followed by addition of the said first viral component, or exposing the first viral component to said second viral component followed by said substance;
 - iv) washing to remove any second viral component and/or substance not associated with the first viral component; and
 - v) detecting the presence, and optionally determining the amount, of associated first and second viral components.

16. (currently amended) The assay method as claimed in Claim 15 wherein UL8 of

HSV-1 is the first viral component and POL of HSV-1 is the second viral component.

17. (currently amended) The assay method as claimed in Claim 15 wherein one of UL102 of HCMV is the first viral component and UL54 of HCMV is the second viral component.
18. (currently amended) The assay method as claimed in Claim 15 wherein one of said first and second viral components is localised on a surface.
19. (currently amended) The assay method as claimed in Claim 15 wherein an antibody is used to detect association of said viral components.
20. (cancelled)
21. (cancelled)
22. (cancelled)
23. (cancelled)
24. (cancelled)
25. (cancelled)
26. (cancelled)
27. (cancelled)
28. (currently amended) An in vitro assay method to determine the ability of a substance to inhibit the association of POL and a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) VFTGVLAVGWGEGGKFVYPFDDKMSFLFA (SEQ ID NO: 5);
 - b) IELVFTGVLAVGWGEGGKFV (SEQ ID NO: 7);

c) DEWVRSLAVDAQHAAKRVASEGLRFFRLNA (SEQ ID NO: 11);
and

d) TWLEERDEWVRSLAVDAQHAARRVAS (SEQ ID NO: 12).
wherein "POL" is defined as POL of HSV-1 or the homologues thereof in other herpesviruses, said method assay comprising:

- i) providing said polypeptide;
- ii) exposing said polypeptide to said substance followed by addition of POL, or exposing POL to said substance followed by addition of the said polypeptide, or exposing POL to said polypeptide followed by said substance;
- iii) washing to remove any POL and/or substance not associated with the polypeptide; and
- v) detecting the presence, and optionally determining the amount, of associated polypeptide and POL.